



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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14,097-ACRE UTAH WITHDRAWAL APPROVED FOR FISH SPRINGS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The Department of the Interior today announced approval of an order withdrawing approximately 14,097 acres of public lands in Utah for the Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge.

According to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the Fish Springs area is located on an important north-south branch of the Pacific Migratory Waterfowl Flyway. The area will provide a resting, feeding and breeding area for large numbers of ducks, geese, and other fowl. The Pacific Flyway Council, and the Utah State Department of Fish and Game have both approved establishment of the Fish Springs Waterfowl Refuge.

Withdrawal of the lands closes the area to all forms of appropriation under the public land laws including the mining, but not the mineral leasing laws. The lands will be administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, but the use of parts of the lands as a livestock driveway will be continued.

According to the Bureau of Land Management the lands would still be used for trailing, watering and resting of livestock while being moved from range to range, as has been the custom over many years.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife explained that the Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge was established in March 1959, by the acquisition of 3,775 acres of land from private individuals and the State of Utah. The withdrawal of the public lands for addition to the refuge will make possible the full development of the unit.

Notice of the proposed withdrawal was published in the Federal Register on July 3, 1958 and later amended. No protests were received.

A complete description of the affected lands, which are located about 90 miles west of Nephi, Utah, and the complete text of the withdrawal order will be published in the Federal Register.

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